

1 **In the Claims**

2 Claims 4, 14, and 38 have been canceled.

3 Claims 1, 11, 25, 34, 41, and 55 are currently amended.

4 Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-37, and 39-57 are pending and are listed as
5 follows:

6
7 1. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
8 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

9 simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations
10 that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises
11 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a
12 viewer; and

13 automatically switching between displays of the two or more
14 electronic presentations based upon viewer-defined preferences, wherein
15 the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can
16 occur within electronic presentations.

17
18 2. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
19 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific
20 electronic presentation titles.

21
22 3. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
23 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that
24 can occur within electronic presentations.
25

1 4. (Canceled)

2
3 5. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
4 wherein the viewer defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one
5 of:

6 specific electronic presentation titles;

7 topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and

8 events that can occur within electronic presentations.

9
10 6. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
11 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities
12 that can be assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

13
14 7. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
15 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities
16 that can be assigned to events that can occur within the two or more
17 electronic presentations.

18
19 8. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
20 wherein said automatically switching comprises enabling a picture-in-
21 picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic
22 presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

1 9. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
2 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
3 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 1.

4
5 10. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
6 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
7 computer, implement the method of claim 1.

8
9 11. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
10 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

11 simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations
12 that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises
13 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a
14 viewer; and

15 automatically notifying a viewer when one or more of the electronic
16 presentations satisfies a viewer-defined preference, wherein viewer-
17 defined preferences can be defined in terms of events that can occur within
18 electronic presentations.

19
20 12. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
21 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic
22 presentation titles.

1 13. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
2 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur
3 within electronic presentations.

4
5 14. (Canceled)

6
7 15. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
8 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:
9 specific electronic presentation titles;
10 topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and
11 events that can occur within electronic presentations.

12
13 16. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
14 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be
15 assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

16
17 17. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
18 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be
19 assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic
20 presentations.

21
22 18. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein said
23 automatically notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP)
24 display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations
25 are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

1
2 19. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
3 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
4 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 11.

5
6 20. (Previously Presented) One or more programmable
7 computers having instructions which, when executed by the one or more
8 computers implement a viewing management method for managing
9 viewing of multiple live electronic presentations comprising:

10 sending at least one viewer request to an encoder, the viewer
11 request containing one or more viewer-defined preferences that relate to
12 one or more events that can occur in one or more electronic presentations;

13 evaluating, with the encoder, one or more electronic presentations
14 that are being broadcast to determine whether any of the viewer-defined
15 preferences are satisfied, wherein said evaluating comprises at least
16 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a
17 viewer; and

18 if a viewer-defined preference is satisfied by one or more of the
19 electronic presentations, notifying a viewer that is associated with the
20 viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

21
22 21. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
23 claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the
24 electronic presentation that satisfied the viewer-defined preference.
25

1 22. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
2 claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia for the
3 viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was
4 satisfied.

5
6 23. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
7 claim 20, wherein said viewing management method further comprises
8 prior to said sending:

9 receiving viewer requests with a server, the viewer requests
10 originating from a plurality of different viewers; and

11 maintaining at least a list of viewers and their viewer-defined
12 preferences in the server,

13 said sending comprising sending the viewer requests from the
14 server to the encoder.

15
16 24. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
17 claim 23, wherein said notifying comprises:

18 sending a notification from the encoder to the server;

19 receiving the notification sent from the encoder; and

20 sending a notification from the server to the viewer.

21
22 25. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
23 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:
24
25

1 receiving one or more viewer requests from one or more viewers,
2 the viewer requests containing viewer-defined preferences that are to be
3 used to evaluate a plurality of different live electronic presentations;

4 evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using the
5 viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are
6 defined in terms of events that can occur within electronic presentations,
7 and wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does
8 not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

9 in the event that one or more of the viewer-defined preferences is
10 satisfied, notifying at least one viewer that is associated with the viewer-
11 defined preference that is satisfied.

12
13 26. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
14 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic
15 presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is
16 satisfied.

17
18 27. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
19 wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia of the electronic
20 presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is
21 satisfied.

22
23 28. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
24 wherein said notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP)
25 display for a viewer in which at least two electronic presentations are

1 contemporaneously displayed for the viewer, one of the electronic
2 presentations comprising one which is associated with the viewer-defined
3 preference that is satisfied.

4
5 29. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
6 wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to
7 receive the viewer requests and notify the viewers.

8
9 30. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
10 wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to
11 receive the viewer requests, evaluate the live electronic presentations, and
12 notify the viewers.

13
14 31. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
15 wherein said evaluating comprises:

16 receiving information describing the electronic presentations as
17 they are being broadcast;

18 receiving updated information describing the electronic
19 presentations as they are being broadcast; and

20 evaluating all of the information that is received in light of the
21 viewer-defined preferences.

22
23 32. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
24 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
25 the one or more computers to implement the method of claim 25.

1
2 33. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
3 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
4 computer, implement the method of claim 25.

5
6 34. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
7 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:
8 creating a viewer request that contains one or more viewer-defined
9 preferences for use in evaluating one or more live electronic presentations;
10 sending the viewer request to one or more computing devices; and
11 evaluating one or more electronic presentations with the one or
12 more computing devices in light of the one or more viewer-defined
13 preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences can be defined in
14 terms of events that can occur in electronic presentations, and wherein said
15 evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise
16 content that can be presented to a viewer.

17
18 35. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34
19 further comprising using the one or more computing devices to send a
20 notification to a viewer in the event that one or more of the electronic
21 presentations satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.

22
23 36. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34
24 further comprising automatically displaying an electronic presentation for
25

1 a viewer in the event that the electronic presentation satisfies one or more
2 of the viewer-defined preferences.

3
4 37. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,
5 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific
6 electronic presentation titles.

7
8 38. (Canceled)

9
10 39. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,
11 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that
12 can occur in electronic presentations.

13
14 40. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
15 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
16 computer, implement the method of claim 34.

17
18 41. (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:
19 one or more client viewing devices; and
20 one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the
21 one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being
22 programmed to:
23 simultaneously monitor one or more electronic presentations
24 that are concurrently broadcast by at least monitoring data that does not
25 comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

1 automatically send a notification to one or more of the client
2 viewing devices when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies
3 one or more viewer-defined preference that is defined by a viewer of the
4 one or more client viewing devices, wherein the viewer-defined
5 preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur in electronic
6 presentations.

7
8 42. (Original) The interactive network of claim 41, wherein the
9 one or more client viewing devices are programmed to automatically
10 display at least an indicia of an electronic presentation that satisfies one or
11 more of the viewer-defined preferences upon receiving a notification from
12 the one or more computing devices.

13
14 43. (Original) The interactive network of claim 42, wherein said
15 indicia comprises a display of the live electronic presentation.

16
17 44. (Previously Presented) A viewing management method for
18 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

19 monitoring viewing habits of one or more viewers of live electronic
20 presentations to determine particular events within the electronic
21 presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view; and

22 ascertaining from data that does not comprise content that can be
23 presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would likely want
24 to view a particular event; and
25

1 notifying one or more viewers when it appears that an event is
2 occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is not viewing
3 but would likely want to view.

4
5 45. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
6 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event for a
7 viewer.

8
9 46. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
10 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying indicia of the
11 electronic presentation, but not the electronic presentation for a viewer.

12
13 47. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
14 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event in a
15 picture-in-picture (PIP) window on a viewer device.

16
17 48. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
18 wherein said monitoring comprises establishing a correlation between the
19 time that a viewer views a particular electronic presentation and the events
20 that transpire during that time.

21
22 49. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 48,
23 wherein said establishing comprises evaluating viewer habits over a
24 plurality of time frames during which the viewer is viewing one or more
25 electronic presentations.

1
2 50. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
3 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
4 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 44.

5
6 51. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
7 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
8 computer, implement the method of claim 44.

9
10 52. (Previously Presented) An interactive network comprising:
11 one or more client viewing devices; and
12 one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the
13 one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being
14 programmed to:

15 monitor viewing habits of one or more viewers of live
16 electronic presentations to determine particular events within the
17 electronic presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view;

18 ascertain from data that does not comprise content that can
19 be presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would
20 likely want to view a particular event; and

21 notify one or more viewers when it appears that an event is
22 occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is not
23 viewing but would likely want to view.

1 53. (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at
2 least one of the client viewing devices comprises a television.

3
4 54. (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at
5 least one of the client viewing devices comprises a computer display.

6
7 55. (Currently Amended) A user interface for use in an
8 interactive entertainment system comprising:

9 a processor;

10 an application executing on the processor and configured to present
11 plurality of fields, one of which displaying a number of titles of programs
12 that can be selected by a viewer, another of which displaying indicia that
13 can be selected to define viewer preferences for simultaneously monitoring
14 two or more of the programs that are selected by the viewer, wherein said
15 monitoring comprises monitoring at least data that does not comprise
16 content that can be presented to the viewer and which comprises events
17 that can occur within said two or more programs; and

18 an input device operable to enable a user to select a particular
19 electronic presentation for continuous play viewing.

20
21 56. (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said
22 indicia is associated with predefined aspects of the programs.

23
24 57. (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said
25 indicia is associated with viewer-definable aspects of the programs.